

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons likely to be benefited by scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) has ceased to exist with the introduction of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) with effect from 1.6.1997. Under the TPDS, there shall be two price regimes—one for the families living below poverty line (BPL) and another for families above poverty line (APL). However, if any State is made any additional allocation to meet special requirements, then the foodgrains are supplied at the Economic Cost. The details are as under:—

	(Rs. per kg.)		
	BPL	APL	Economic Cost
Wheat	2.50	4.50	7.62
Rice			
Common	3.50	—	8.45
Fine	3.50	6.50	8.88
Supertine	—	7.50	9.27

(c) The number of persons living below poverty line who are likely to be benefited by the Scheme is about 32.03 crores. It is not possible to estimate the number of APL beneficiaries as it is left to the States to distribute the foodgrains at a scale to be determined by them from the allotment of foodgrains made for APL families.

[Translation]

Price of Imported Wheat

*88. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of imported wheat is comparatively more than the price of the wheat procured on the support price in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for import of wheat at a higher price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The estimated economic cost of imported wheat would be marginally more than the economic cost of indigenously procured wheat. The details in this regard are as under:—

	Pooled Economic Cost (Estimated) (Rs./MT)
Imported Wheat	8076.00
Indigenous Wheat	7528.30

(c) Import of wheat was undertaken to tide over the tight domestic wheat stock position and to augment the overall supply position with a view to contain the rise in prices caused by a fall in production, and the consequent lower procurement of wheat for the Central Pool during 1996-97.

[English]

Import of Inferior Wheat from Australia by STC

*89. DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Australian wheat imported by STC contained exotic weeds, as appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated May 20, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the STC have violated norms regarding import of wheat;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether an Indian team of experts recently visited Australia to discuss the problem of contaminated wheat;

(f) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(g) whether complaints have been received from various States regarding the sub-standard quality of wheat imported which is unfit for human consumption; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?